

CONNECTICUT LOTTERY DISTRIBUTION

I thought many of you would be interested in learning how Connecticut utilizes its lottery funds.

\$280.8 Million in Connecticut Lottery Proceeds was distributed in Fiscal Year 2004

Service	Percent of Lottery Proceeds Allocated
Libraries and Education Services	1.78%
Higher Education	4.58%
Department of Education	15.87%
General Government	3.26%
Legislative	0.49%
Corrections	9.22%
State Service	9.53%
Judicial	3.07%
Regulation and Protection	1.68%
Conservation and Development	0.54%
Health and Hospitals	5.68%
Human Services	7.96%
Debt Services	9.16%
Property Tax Reimbursement to Towns	1.30%
Public Health	0.56%
Mental Health	3.46%
Medicaid	21.60%

Source: www.ctlottery.org/proceeds

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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*104th District
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*Capitol News
Update
2005*

Budget Brief

- The property tax credit for qualified taxpayers will remain at \$350 for the current year but will increase to \$400 for the 2006 tax year.
- For the first time in 15 years the pass through of the federal Cost of Living Adjustment for the blind, aged and disabled is included in the budget. There will be no reduction in their state portion.
- The budget eliminates the \$3 co-pay for prescription drugs and the \$3 co-pay per doctor visit for those on the state Medicaid program.
- Qualified adults up to 150% of the poverty level will continue to be covered by the state HUSKY health insurance program.
- Private providers of state services will receive a 4% Cost of Living Adjustment—their biggest increase in many years.
- We also began to address the underfunding of the Teachers' Retirement System by using general fund and surplus appropriations of \$276.1 million in Fiscal Year 2006 and \$286 million in fiscal year 2007. These contributions provide approximately 70% of the actuarial certification. A good start but we must continue to fund our teachers' pension at adequate levels.

Pequot/Mohegan Fund Distribution

I am frequently asked what happens to the money the state receives in gambling revenue and how that money is used by the state.

In Fiscal Year '05 funds from the Pequot/Mohegan casinos were \$420 million dollars. A total of \$85 million is distributed to towns under a formula described below. The remaining is put into the General Fund.

The formula used to determine town distribution is based on six criteria:

1. \$20 million on the basis of the State-Owned Real Property PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes).
2. \$20.1 million on the basis of the PILOT for Private Colleges and General and Free Standing Chronic Disease Hospitals. Each town will receive an additional share of the \$20,123,916 appropriated for this portion of the grant.
3. \$35 million on the basis of the Property Tax Relief Fund formula which uses three factors to determine aid: adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, per capita income, and town population.
4. \$5.475 million to specified cities on the basis of the Property Tax Relief Fund formula. The cities are: Bridgeport, Hamden, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Waterbury and Windham.
5. \$500,000 to Ledyard, North Stonington, and Preston, Norwich, and Montville.
6. \$4.75 million to all towns distributed pro rata based on the total of (1) and (2).

News You Can Use

■ **Help with Prescription Drugs:** We all know how expensive prescription drugs are. The legislature acted to create a Pharmacy Outreach Program to provide information about reduced and free prescription drug programs. Administered by the pharmaceutical manufacturers, the program creates a statewide 800 number and website to provide information on voluntary drug assistance programs and advise residents on their eligibility for various programs. To contact the outreach program call: 888-477-2669. **(P.A. 05-269)**

■ **State Tax Exemption for Military Pensions:** Starting with the 2008 tax year, 50% of federally taxable military retirement pay will be exempt from the state income tax. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay to retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard. **(P.A. 05-251)**

■ **The Department of Veterans' Affairs** has a toll-free number that families can call when seeking information on available services. The phone number and staff will be in place by late summer/early fall. Individuals needing immediate help can call the National Guard Family Program at 1-860-524-4866 until that time. **PA 05-3 (June Special Session)**

■ **Teenage Drivers:** In an effort to reduce motor vehicle accidents involving younger drivers, new restrictions were enacted on 16 and 17 year old drivers. These young drivers will be banned from driving between 12:01 AM and 5:00 AM. Exceptions to the ban include driving related to school, work, religious activity, or in the case of emergency. The new law also increases to 20 hours the behind-the-wheel experience necessary to obtain a driver's license. Except for emergencies, young drivers are completely banned from using a cell phone when driving. **(P.A. 05-54)**

To contact Representative Gentile please call (800) 842-8267 or send an email to linda.gentile@cga.ct.gov